

a client computer to playback multimedia content and annotations corresponding to different temporal portions of the multimedia content; and an annotation server, coupled to the client computer, to, maintain an annotation database having a plurality of annotations corresponding to the multimedia content, provide the plurality of annotations to the client computer for playback, send electronic mail messages including annotations to recipients identified by the client computer, generate new annotations based on [received] electronic mail messages received both in response to the sent electronic mail messages and not in response to the sent electronic mail messages, and add the new annotations to the annotation database.

5. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the client computer is further to transmit, to the media server, an identifier of a temporal segment of the multimedia content that is after the beginning of the multimedia content, and wherein the media server is to stream to the client computer the multimedia content beginning with the identified temporal segment.

6. (Amended) A method comprising: presenting, to a user, a user interface allowing the user to create a new annotation corresponding to media content; [and]

1 including, as part of the user interface, a field via which the user can  
2 identify a recipient that is to receive an electronic mail notification of the new  
3 annotation; and

4 communicating, as an electronic mail message that is not in reply to another  
5 electronic mail message, the new annotation to an annotation server.

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8 8. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising  
9 [forwarding the new annotation to an annotation server to be added to] including,  
10 in the electronic mail message, an indication of an annotation set corresponding to  
11 the media content and to the new annotation.

12 9. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising:  
13 allowing the user to identify, via the field of the user interface, a plurality of  
14 recipients to receive the electronic mail notification; and

15 [wherein the forwarding comprises] forwarding, to each of the plurality of  
16 recipients, the electronic mail notification of the new annotation.

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18 10. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising:  
19 allowing the user to input, via the field of the user interface, a group  
20 identifier;

21 identifying an electronic mail address for each of a plurality of recipients  
22 corresponding to the group identifier; and

23 [wherein the forwarding comprises] forwarding, to each of the plurality of  
24 recipients, the electronic mail notification of the new annotation.

Q14 13. (Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving data for a new annotation corresponding to a temporal range of  
media content;  
generating an electronic mail message including, [both]  
the content of the new annotation, [and]  
an identifier of the media content, and  
an installation option that identifies an installation program that can  
be used to install one or more modules allowing the content and  
corresponding media content to be rendered; and  
forwarding the electronic mail message to a recipient identified by the data.

Sub 13  
Q15 17. (Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving an electronic mail notification of a new annotation corresponding  
to media content, the new annotation corresponding to one of [the media content  
having] a plurality of temporal segments after the beginning of the media content;  
presenting the electronic mail notification to a user;  
receiving a user input to access the media content; and  
accessing, upon receiving the user input, a media server to stream, for  
rendering to the user, the media content beginning with the one of the plurality of  
segments that corresponds to the new annotation [to the user].

Q16 14 19. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the presenting  
comprises:  
displaying annotation content for the new annotation to the user; and

1 displaying [at least one] a plurality of identifiers to the user, the [at least  
2 one] plurality of identifiers including [one or more of]:

3 a content identifier that identifies the media content;

4 a range identifier that identifies a temporal range of the segment  
5 corresponding to the new annotation;

6 an annotation identifier that identifies the new annotation; and

7 an annotation set identifier that identifies one or more of a plurality  
8 of annotation sets, corresponding to categories for annotations, that the new  
9 annotation is part of.

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11 23. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored  
12 thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors,  
13 causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

14 receiving an electronic mail notification of a new annotation corresponding  
15 to media content, wherein the electronic mail notification includes a user-  
16 selectable identifier of the media content;

17 displaying the electronic mail notification;

18 receiving a user selection of the identifier; and

19 accessing, upon receiving the user selection, a media server indicated by the  
20 identifier to begin, at a point in the media content after the beginning of the media  
21 content and corresponding to the new annotation, streaming the media content for  
22 presentation to the user.

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24 25. (Amended) A system comprising:  
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1 an interface module to receive data regarding a new annotation  
2 corresponding to media content;

3 a module to generate an electronic mail message regarding the new  
4 annotation, the electronic mail message including,

5 the new annotation content, [and]

6 an identifier of the media content to which the new annotation  
7 corresponds, and

8 an identifier of a temporal range of the media content that the new  
9 annotation content is associated with, which corresponds to a location of  
10 the media content that is after the beginning of the media content and at  
11 which rendering of the media content should begin in response to selection  
12 of the identifier of the media content in the electronic mail message.

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14 ~~28~~ (Amended) A system as recited in claim ~~25~~<sup>20</sup>, wherein the electronic  
15 mail message further includes an identifier of one or more of a plurality of  
16 annotation sets, corresponding to categories for annotations, that the new  
17 annotation is associated with.

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19 ~~28~~ 31. (Amended) A method comprising:  
20 receiving an electronic mail notification of an annotation corresponding to  
21 media content; [and]  
22 replying to the electronic mail notification to generate a new annotation  
23 corresponding to the media content;  
24 including, in the reply, an identifier of one or more annotation sets that the  
25 new annotation is associated with; and

a<sup>10</sup>  
1 displaying a default recipient, corresponding to the identified one or more  
2 annotation sets, that is to receive an electronic mail notification of the new  
3 annotation.

sub (3)  
a<sup>11</sup>  
5 33. (Amended) A method comprising:  
6 receiving an electronic mail thread including a plurality of electronic mail  
7 messages;  
8 creating [an] a plurality of annotations from [at least one of] the plurality of  
9 electronic mail messages in the electronic mail thread; and  
10 adding the plurality of annotations to an annotation database.

Sub (9)  
a<sup>12</sup>  
13 37. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored  
14 thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors,  
15 causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:  
16 receiving an electronic mail message that is not in reply to a previous  
17 electronic mail message; and  
18 extracting both annotation content and annotation identification information  
19 from the electronic mail message.

Sub (10)  
a<sup>13</sup>  
20 39. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media as recited in  
21 claim 37, wherein the extracting annotation identification information comprises  
22 extracting from the email message:  
23 an identifier of media content to which the annotation content corresponds  
24 and of a temporal segment, corresponding to the annotation content, of the media  
25 content; and

a<sup>13</sup>

an identifier of an annotation set that a new annotation including the  
extracted annotation content is to be part of, wherein the annotation set is one of  
one or more annotation sets corresponding to categories for annotations.

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